

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Present Application:

Applicants : Emad S. Alnemri *et al.*
Title : CASPASE-14, AN APOPTOTIC PROTEASE,
NUCLEIC ACIDS ENCODING AND METHODS OF USE
Docket No. : 480140.434C2
Date : February 5, 2002

Prior Application:

Examiner : Gary B. Nickol, Ph.D.
Art Unit : 1642
Application No.: 09/989,903

Box Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification:

On page 1, please amend the section entitled "CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION" to read as follows:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/989,903, filed November 20, 2001; which application is a divisional of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/187,789, filed November 6, 1998, which application issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,340,740 on January 22, 2002; which application is a continuation-in-part of U. S. Serial No. 09/139,600, filed August 25,

1998, now pending, which application claims the benefit of priority from U. S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/056,986, now abandoned; all applications are incorporated herewith by reference.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-55.

Please add the following new claims:

56. (New) An isolated antibody that specifically binds to a caspase-14 polypeptide, comprising SEQ ID NO:5.

57. (New) The antibody of claim 12, wherein said antibody binds to a large subunit of caspase-14.

58. (New) The antibody of claim 12, wherein said antibody binds to a small subunit of caspase-14.

59. (New) An isolated antibody that specifically binds to a caspase-14 fragment, said fragment comprising amino acid sequences selected from the group consisting of positions 1 to 146 of SEQ ID NO:5, positions 1-146 of SEQ ID NO:7, and positions 1-118 of SEQ ID NO:9.

60. (New) An isolated antibody that specifically binds to a caspase-14 fragment, said fragment comprising amino acid sequences selected from the group consisting of positions 147 to 242 of SEQ ID NO:5, positions 147-230 of SEQ ID NO:7, and positions 119-214 of SEQ ID NO:9.

61. (New) An isolated antibody that specifically binds a caspase-14 polypeptide, comprising SEQ ID NO:7.

62. (New) An isolated antibody that specifically binds a caspase-14 polypeptide, comprising SEQ ID NO:9.

63. (New) An isolated antibody that specifically binds a caspase-14 polypeptide having greater than 80% amino acid identity with SEQ ID No:2.

64. (New) An isolated antibody that specifically binds a caspase-14 polypeptide having greater than 80% amino acid identity with SEQ ID No:5.

65. (New) An isolated antibody that specifically binds to a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:2.

66. (New) An isolated antibody that specifically binds to a polypeptide comprising positions 1 to 156 of SEQ ID NO:2.

67. (New) An isolated antibody that specifically binds to a polypeptide comprising positions 163 to 257 of SEQ ID NO:2

68. (New) An antibody of any one of claims 56-67, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

69. (New) An antibody of any one of claims 56-67, wherein said antibody is a polyclonal antibody.

70. (New) An isolated cell expressing the antibody of any one of claims 56-67.

REMARKS

Claims 1-55 have been cancelled and claims 56-70 have been added. Claims 56-70 are pending. Support for the new claims can be found in previously pending claims 21-24 as well as page 22, line 3 through page 25, line 23 in the parent application. No new matter has been added by the addition of these claims.

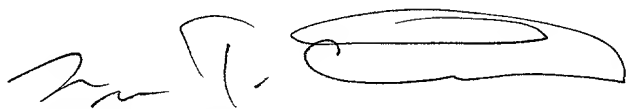
Although no longer required by the Patent Office, Applicants have amended the cross reference section of the application in order to incorporate by reference all priority applications.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version With Markings to Show Changes Made.**"

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Seed Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC



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